

COLLEGE STATION, TX

STAT

Some Americans feel "somewhat queasy" about President Reagan's attempts to arrange a meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski says.

Brzezinski, speaking at a news conference with James Schlesinger, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and former Soviet Ambassador Arkady Shevchenko, said Thursday afternoon that Reagan had acted "unseemingly" in his efforts to meet with the new Soviet leader.

"Any eagerness should be on the part of Gorbachev, not Reagan. A meeting with Reagan would be an important status symbol for Gorbachev," Brzezinski said prior to a Thursday night lecture at Texas A&M University.

Brzezinski, national security adviser during the Carter administration, said Reagan's moves toward Gorbachev were a "tactical error that has made many Americans feel somewhat queasy."

Schlesinger said the Soviet people probably will welcome Gorbachev's regime, but the United States was better off when Gorbachev's ailing predecessor, Konstantin Chernenko, was in power.

He compared the reaction of the Soviet people to Gorbachev as similar to the way Americans felt about the late Robert Kennedy.

However, "In the U.S., we will miss Mr. Chernenko," the former CIA director said. "He was feeble and probably the weakest leader of the Soviet Union."

Brzezinski, Schlesinger and Shevchenko agreed Reagan and Gorbachev will meet -- possibly in the next year -- but that results of the meeting will be insignificant.

"I think they (Reagan and Gorbachev) will meet. The reason is mutual need," Brzezinski said. "What will come of it? Not terribly much."

The three agreed that while Gorbachev has been touted in some circles as a powerful, energetic and dynamic leader, no one can predict how effective he will be in governing the Soviet Union.

"He (Gorbachev) is a product of the Soviet system, have no illusions," said Shevchenko, the highest-ranking Soviet diplomat ever to defect. "Gorbachev has less experience than any present member of the Politburo. We don't know what might happen at all (under his leadership)."